

IRON STRONG DAILY



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Photo by Capt. Stephen Barker, 18th ENG BDE PAO

Army Lt. Col. Craig Irland, commander of the 184th Explosive Ordnance Battalion, and Navy Senior Chief Matthew Broderson unveil the sign for the new Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Training Complex, dedicated to EOD1 Kevin "KB" Bewley, on July 11 at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, located in Tikrit, Iraq. Bewley was killed in action on 5 November 2007.

Training complex assist counter-IED efforts

by Capt. Stephen Barker
18th Engineer Brigade PAO



Coalition service members of Multi-National Division - North now have an enhanced opportunity to learn how to discover and negotiate the improvised explosive devices threat with the official

opening of Task Force Troy's Counter-IED Training Complex on Contingency Operating Base Speicher, 11 July.

"We're trying to make it more like the environment out there," stated Navy Senior Chief Matthew Broderson, the senior instructor at the training range. Army and Navy instructors aim to add "more realism" to the training by em-

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ploying the latest enemy techniques geographically specific to the trainees' area of operation.

Iraqi police and army units have also trained on the course. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Luigi Mendoza, who trains and works with the 4th Iraqi Army's Bomb Disposal Company, accompanies 10 to 12 Iraqi Soldiers twice a week to the training complex, "The impact is huge... they're very courageous," he said.

The upgrade of the course took five months and army engineers from the 326th Engineer Battalion (Air Assault) assisted with the construction work. According to 1st Lt. Gregory Adkins, the Assault and Obstacle platoon leader of the Headquarters Support Company, his Soldiers "pushed up berms, dug a wadi, emplace culverts, and created roads" in order to enhance the training environment for Task Force Troy - North.

The training includes situations at checkpoints, culverts, berms, and traffic circles, as well as conducting searches in houses and rural environments. Training begins with classroom presentations but quickly transitions to up-close ordnance identification and culminates in a three hour exercise

that includes vehicle recoveries and medical evacuations.

Offered in three different levels, the new program's C-IED Level 1 course provides general awareness training to both military and civilians of all ranks—to include contractors. The more advanced Level 2 training consists of a half-day in the classroom for classified briefings and then a half-day of practical exercises on the range.

If units wish to have their Soldiers return to teach others, the third level is designed as a "train the trainer" course which focuses on a combination of IED awareness, unexploded ordnance recognition, search techniques, applying electronic counter-measures and utilizing intelligence. The highest level of training is also taught in different blocks of time, three days or five days, depending on how much time the unit has to devote to the training and which issues they wish to focus on.

Lt. Col. Craig Irland, commander of 184th Explosive Ordnance Battalion, dedicated the complex to Navy Explosive Ordnance specialist Kevin "KB" Bewley, who was killed in action in Bayji on 5 November 2007 and described Bewley as "a courageous sailor" who made "an immediate impact on Task Force Troy." Irland hopes the training will "minimize casualties across the battle space." △

Navy Senior Chief Matthew Broderson gives the opening remarks a ceremony marking the completion of the new Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Training Complex at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, located in Tikrit, Iraq, July. Lt. Col. Craig Irland, commander of 184th Explosive Ordnance Battalion, dedicated the complex to Navy Explosive Ordnance specialist Kevin "KB" Bewley, who was killed in action in Bayji on 5 November 2007.



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Photos by Spc. Ryan Elliott, 14th PAD

An Iraqi engineer works on a water pump at a local water treatment facility in Baqubah. Coalition Forces along with Iraqis performed a maintenance check on equipment as part of a wider effort to supply additional water to the Diyala region by diverting water from the Diyala River, July 8.

More Water for Baqubah

by Spc. Ryan Elliott
14th Public Affairs Detachment



Gushing with excitement, Iraqi engineers twist knobs and pull levers as water spurts from the formerly dry nozzles at the South Buhriz water pumping station in Baqubah, July 8.

The Ministry of electricity for the Baqubah area diverted power to the South Buhriz water pumping station to conduct test on new pumps.

The test is part of a wider effort to alleviate some of the impact the recent drought has had on people and business of the Diyala Province.

“The pumping station diverts water from the Diyala River to feed more than 90,000 people in and around the Baqubah area,” said Capt. Bryan Meagher, Essential Services Coordinator for the Diyala Province, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment and Essential Services League.

One goal of the South Buhriz project is to get more pumps online and functioning, so more water can be diverted from

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Maj. Jesse Davies the regimental civil affairs officer, with the 407th Civil Affairs, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, is swarmed by smiling Iraqi Children as they play near in the water near the water treatment plant in Baqubah. The Ministry of electricity for the Baqubah area diverted power to the South Buhriz water pumping station to conduct test on new pumps.



Iraqi children gather by a water outlet in Baqubah during a joint American and Iraqi test to divert water from the Diyala river for irrigation projects in and around the Diyala region

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the Diyala River to areas in desperate need of irrigation.

"The test today will allow us to identify issues we're having, to diagnose them and set a plan of action as to how to remedy them," said Maj. Jesse Davies, 407th Civil Affairs Officer, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment. "It is a necessary step in the process of providing more water to those in need of it," Davies went on to say.

The test is also an example of how the democratically elected Government of Iraq listens and responds to the needs of its people.

The Diyala Governor Raiad Rashid Hamid al-Mullah Juwad al-Tamimi, in a consorted effort with the Ministry of Electricity and the Ministry of Irrigation have made alleviation of the effect of drought a priority and they were intricate in ensuring this test was conducted today, Meagher said.

The test also proved to be a good yard stick to measure improvement you of internal cooperation among different parts of the Government of Iraq.

"Electricity had to be diverted from all over the Diyala area to bring these pumps on line today," Davies said. The different Minister and key officials of several parts of the government had to coordinate a lot of independent resources to make this project a success today, Davies went on to say.

We're definitely counting this test as a success today, not just for us but for all the people of Baqubah, who will eventually feel the positive impact of today, Meagher said. △



Photo by Spc. Opal Vaughn, 14thPAD

Accidents happen

Air Force Staff Sgt. Scott Harris, a Security Forces patrolman from Carver, Mass., with the 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, Detachment 1, takes pictures of a two vehicle head on collision at an intersection at Contingency Operating Base Speicher, located in Tikrit, Iraq, July 11. Harris and partner, Air Force Security Forces Staff Sgt. Dale Gutierrez, from Virginia Beach, Va., were the first on the scene of the accident.

DISPUTE, IRAQ WAR

WASHINGTON D.C. (AP) - The two major presidential rivals sharpened their long-standing dispute over the Iraq War on Tuesday, Democratic Sen. Barack Obama calling it a costly distraction that must end while Republican Sen. John McCain insisted it is a conflict the United States has to win. "Iraq is not going to be a perfect place, and we don't have unlimited resources to try and make it one," Obama said in a speech in which he also said the United States must shift its focus to defeating the Taliban and al-Qaida in Afghanistan. Rebutting swiftly, McCain said Obama "will tell you we can't win in Afghanistan without losing in Iraq. In fact, he has it exactly backwards."

While the two men agreed on the importance of prevailing in Afghanistan, the dispute veered in a new direction when it came to the tribal areas of next-door Pakistan, where terrorist Osama bin Laden and his men are thought to be hiding. McCain accused Obama of "trying to sound tough" by speaking publicly of taking unilateral action against those blamed for the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Undeterred, Obama said, "If Pakistan cannot or will not act, we will take out high-level terrorist targets like bin Laden if we have them in our sights."

Despite his rhetoric, Obama refrained from saying the administration's so-called surge in troop strength in Iraq had failed. Aides said his campaign Web site had been altered in recent days to remove references to that effect.

The two men sparred as Obama looked ahead to an overseas trip that will include stops in Iraq and Afghanistan, two countries where thousands of U.S. combat forces are engaged in combat as part of the global war on terror. Given differences in age and experience between the two rivals, Obama's trip has taken on elements of an audition for a man seeking overall charge of U.S. war policy as well as foreign policy in general.

A Washington Post poll released before the two men spoke showed the country evenly divided on whether Obama, 46, now serving his first term in the Senate, would be a good commander in chief. The 71-year-old McCain, who was a Vietnam prisoner of war and has long Senate experience with defense issues, was widely viewed favorably on the same question.

An AP-Yahoo poll taken last month showed 39 percent of those surveyed said McCain would do a better job of handling Iraq, compared with 33 percent for Obama.

In his remarks, Obama pushed back against his rival's recent comments that the Bush administration's 18-month increase in troop strength in Iraq has been a success that warrants a change in position on the war.

"This argument misconstrues what is necessary to succeed in Iraq and stubbornly ignores the facts of the broader strategic picture that we face," the Illinois senator said.

"In the 18 months since the surge began, the strain on our military has increased, our troops and their families have borne an enormous burden, and American taxpayers have spent another \$200 billion in Iraq," he said.

In Afghanistan, "June was our highest casualty month of the war. The Taliban has been on the offensive, even launching a brazen attack on one of our bases. Al-Qaida has a growing sanctuary in Pakistan," Obama added.

In reply, McCain belittled his younger rival, who he said was speaking about the war before traveling overseas and talking to Gen. David Petraeus, the overall commander on the ground.

"In my experience, fact-finding missions usually work best the other way around: First you assess the facts on the ground, then you present a new strategy," McCain said.

Obama said he stands by his longtime proposal to withdraw U.S. combat troops. "We can safely redeploy ... at a pace that would remove them in 16 months" from the time he takes office, he said. "We will make tactical adjustments as we implement this strategy — that is what any commander in chief must do," he said.

Later, in an interview with PBS, Obama said one of the issues he wants to discuss with Petraeus and others while in Iraq concerns the resources they will seek to carry out a post-combat mission of protecting U.S. personnel and bases, training Iraqi forces and conducting counterinsurgency attacks against al-Qaida.

Obama's aides billed his speech as a major address, and in it the Illinois senator sketched a foreign policy for a new administration.

Apart from ending the war in Iraq, he cited finishing the fight against al-Qaida and the Taliban, securing all loose nuclear weapons and materials, achieving energy security and rebuilding international alliances.

Yet, he stressed that ending the war in Iraq was essential.

"This war distracts us from every threat we face and so many opportunities we could seize," he said.

Obama salted his speech with criticism of McCain, who frequently cites his Senate experience on matters of defense and foreign policy.

"I opposed going to war in Iraq. Sen. McCain was one of Washington's biggest supporters of the war," he said.

"I warned that the invasion ... would fan the flames of extremism and distract us from the fight against al-Qaida and the Taliban. Sen. McCain claimed that we would be greeted as liberators."

FOOTBALL



(CBSSPORTS) - Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning will miss most of training camp after undergoing knee surgery on Monday, but should be healthy for the team's 2008 season opener.

Manning, 32, had surgery to remove infected bursa sac from his left knee.

"The procedure was routine," team president Bill Polian said in a statement. "The Colts medical staff expects a full and complete return to action in four to six weeks."

"Peyton had been receiving conservative treatment for an inflamed bursa sac in consultation with the club's medical staff since February 2008. This course of treatment was productive until Peyton experienced increased pain and early signs of infection."

Manning has never missed a regular season game in his NFL career, starting 160 consecutive games.

The Colts said barring any complications Manning should be able to continue that streak on Sept. 7 when Indianapolis opens against the Chicago Bears.

Manning ranks fourth all-time with 306 touchdown passes and ninth with 41,626 passing yards.

Polian said Manning is expected to address the media next week when the team's training camp opens in Terre Haute, Ind. △

BASEBALL

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Texas Rangers slugger Josh Hamilton set an All-Star Game Home Run Derby record on Monday by belting 28 homers in the first round but the Minnesota Twins' Justin Morneau prevailed in the end to win the trophy.

Morneau claimed the title by hitting five homers against three from a spent Hamilton in the final round, where they started 0-0 with no carryover from the earlier rounds.

Hamilton was the star of the charity fund-raising show on the eve of Tuesday's All-Star Game with a jaw-dropping display of power that saw him clout 13 homers on 13 successive swings and measure more than 500 feet on three of his blasts.

The Rangers outfielder eclipsed the 24 homers slugged by then-Philadelphia Phillies outfielder Bobby Abreu, now with the Yankees, during the first round of the 2005 contest. △

TENNIS

Stanford, CA (Sports Network) - Sixth-seeded Marion Bartoli advanced in straight sets in first-round action, while American Lindsay Davenport withdrew from the \$600,000 Bank of the West Classic tennis event.

Bartoli eased to a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Uzbekistan's Akgul Amanmuradova to advance to the second round. The Frenchwoman was the only seeded player to play Monday, when American Lindsay Davenport pulled out of the event.

Davenport wasn't scheduled to play until Tuesday, but she withdrew because of a right knee injury that also forced her out of the second round at Wimbledon last month.

The former world No. 1 was scheduled to play Italy's Francesca Schiavone. Instead, Canada's Aleksandra Wozniak will contest that match, and Australian

Samantha Stosur will replace Davenport in the draw.

Among other winners in Monday's action on the hardcourts at Taube Family Tennis Stadium was Ukraine's Kateryna Bondarenko, who defeated American Ashley Harkleroad 7-5, 6-2.

Japan's Ai Sugiyama fought for a three-set victory over wildcard American Alexa Glatch, 6-2, 3-6, 7-5. Austrian Sybille Bammer won 7-5, 6-2 over Olga Govortsova of Belarus. Additionally, Russian Alisa Kleybanova defeated countrywoman Elena Vesnina in three sets, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

Anna Chakvetadze is the defending champion, having bested Indian Sania Mirza in last year's finale. This year's top seeds are Serena Williams and Chakvetadze. The 2008 Stanford titlist will collect \$95,500. △

BASKETBALL

(Chicago Tribune) - Chicago Bulls point guard Derrick Rose, the NBA's No. 1 draft pick, pleaded guilty Monday to speeding and was fined \$1,000, placed on court supervision for 6 months and ordered to take an online driving course through Kane County.

"I learn from my mistakes," Rose said after his court appearance in Geneva. Rose, 19, who grew up in Chicago's Englewood neighborhood, was ticketed April 29 for going more than 100 m.p.h. on Interstate Highway 88 near Aurora.

Because Rose was clocked at more than 40 m.p.h. over the speed limit, the speeding charge was a misdemeanor. Rose made a "cold plea," meaning that his attorney, Terry Ekl, and prosecutors did not negotiate a sentence in advance. That left his sentence to the discretion of Judge Robert Morrow, who said supervision was appropriate, given Rose's otherwise clean driving record. "I will give you a chance, sir. It's in your hands," Morrow told Rose. △